

IDOC Hosts Suicide Prevention Summit

New Castle, Indiana (October 2, 2009) – Suicide is an important issue facing many, both in society and in the correctional system. To recognize this concern and help address it, the Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC) held the 2009 Suicide Prevention Summit, “Shoulder to Shoulder: No One Stands Alone,” at the Correctional Training Institute in New Castle, Indiana on September 30, 2009.

Over 240 employees from the IDOC, Correctional Medical Services (CMS), and law enforcement agencies around Indiana attended the summit. The IDOC partnered with the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Indiana and CMS to host the summit.

IDOC Chief of Staff Daniel G. Ronay opened the event, reflecting on how suicide impacts correctional facilities, jails, and communities. Then, Joel Dvoskin, Ph.D. delivered the keynote address, entitled, “Preventing Suicide in Jails, Prisons, and Juvenile Correctional Facilities.” Dr. Dvoskin emphasized the importance of a suicide prevention plan and noted that training, supervision, and communication are critical to prevention.



Brad Huffey, Ph.D. leads a discussion on teamwork and communication.

Summit attendees also participated in a variety of workshops during the afternoon session. The summit concluded with a presentation and discussion, entitled “Self Care for Correctional Staff,” which was led by Brad Huffey, Ph.D., Wabash Correctional Facility, and Kellie Meyer, M.A., Development Director and Criminal Justice Director for NAMI Indiana.

“The Suicide Prevention Summit, made possible with our partners CMS and NAMI, is a great avenue through which Indiana correctional professionals can receive the tools necessary to address this concern and have an open dialogue about the best ways to confront it,” said IDOC Commissioner Edwin G. Buss.

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